

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: D/HA/PW: FASIEVERTS:JS

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA 0546

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FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 250584 ACTION BANGKOK VIENTIANE INFO
THE SECRETARY HONG KONG PARIS USUN CANBERRA OTTAWA WARSAW BUDAPEST
BUCHAREST MOSCOW GENEVA AND CINCPAC 21 OCT 75

QUOTE

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E.O. 11#52:NA

SUBKCT: AMERICANS IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: STATE 249210 (BEING REPEATED)

1. DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN OCT. 21 ISSUED STATEMENT PER PARA
FIVE REFTEL WELCOMING PRG/UNHCR ANNOUNCEMENT ON REPATRIATION
OF US AND OTHER FOREIGNERS FROM SVN.

2. UNHCR HAS ADVISED THAT IT HAS NOT REPEAT NOT YET RE-
CEIVED NAMES OF THOSE TO BE RELEASED. ON BASIS THEIR DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH DRV/PRG IN GENEVA THEY BELIEVE THOSE REFERRED
TO BY THIS ANNOUNCEMENT ARE THE BAN ME THUOT AND POSSIBLY
OTHER PRISONERS. THEIR AND OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT THE
ANNOUNCEMENT AS SUCH DOES NOT COVER THE 50 OR SO OTHER
AMERICANS IN SVN. CONFIRMING THIS IS UNHCR'S UNDERSTANDING
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THAT THE GROUP TO BE RELEASED IS ALREADY IN HANOI. TO OUR

KNOWLEDGE, THE TP VOR SO OTHER AMERICANS REMAIN IN SAIGON.

3. CANAD

IAN EMBASSY HERE TODAY ADVISED THAT THEIR EMBASSY IN PEKING OCT. 10 RECEIVED NOTE FROM PRG STATING THAT CMA MISSIONARIES MR. AND MRS. NORMAN JOHNSON WERE AMONG THE REPATRIATION GROUP. THIS IS FIRST DEFINITE INDICATION OF NAMES AND IS FURTHER CONFIRMATION THAT BAN ME THUOT PRISONERS ARE THE ONES PRIMARILY INVOLVED.

4. UNHCR SAYS PLANS FOR ACTUAL REPATRIATION ARE STILL IN FORMATION. THEIR NEW YORK REPRESENTATIVE (DAYAL) THINKS IT WILL INVOLVE UNHCR AIRCRAFT FROM HANOI TO VIENTIANE. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF REPATRIATION FLIGHT COULD CONTINUE TO BANGKOK WHERE REPATRIATES COULD MORE CONVENIENTLY BE MET BY THEIR GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES. CHRISTIAN UND MISSIONARY ALLIANCE HAS LARGE RECEPTION CENTER IN BANGKOK WHERE CMA AND OTHER MISSIONARIES COULD STAY FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE.

5. COMMENT: APPEARS TO US BANGKOK OFFERS OBVIOUS ADVANTAGES OVER VIENTIANE FOR RECEPTION OF RETURNEES. OUR PRELIMINARY THINKING IS THAT GROUP SHOULD BE RECEIVED IN CIVILIAN CHANNELS WITH MILITARY FACILITIES USED ONLY IN EVENT RETURNEES REQUIRE IMMEDIATE SERIOUS MEDICAL ATTENTION.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE BANGKOK'S THOUGHTS ON HOW RECEPTION SHOULD BE HANDLED ASSUMING IT TAKES PLACE THERE, INCLUDING INITIAL DEBRIEFING AND MEDICAL CARE. SUGGEST VIENTIANE ALSO COMMENT IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY RETURNEES MAY LAND THERE.
INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL

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